

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 4 May, 2006

TO: Division of Shellfish Sanitation Staff

FROM: Harrison P. Bresee, III, Processing Chief
Division of Shellfish Sanitation

THROUGH: Robert E. Croonenberghs, Ph.D., Director
Division of Shellfish Sanitation



SUBJECT: Plants – Boat Dealers

Purpose

A boat dealer certification is defined in a specific manner to allow small harvesters to sell directly to a pre-determined market. This working memo will clarify these conditions.

Policy

1. Boat dealers must be certified by the Virginia Department of Health/Division of Shellfish Sanitation.
2. Certified boat dealers are permitted to harvest, wash and cull their catch aboard their boats at the harvest site within a certain timeframe (as defined in the Model Ordinance) and to sell their catch to a pre-determined market without maintaining a shoreside facility.
3. Boat dealers are only allowed to purchase shellfish from other dealers in specific circumstances:
 - a. They must either have an inspected (by DSS) onshore facility with approved water and monitored refrigeration or;
 - b. They must have wet storage (VA, MD & DE product only);
 - c. They must keep records of these transactions.
4. Boat dealers are not permitted to buy shellfish from other harvesters except in very special circumstances:
 - a. They must have a reasonable SOP;
 - b. They must have a commingling plan (see working memo S-273) or a system to keep product separated;
 - c. They must have an exemplary record system.
5. Boat dealers are not allowed to store their catch on their boats or in trucks unless they are en route to their market. (i.e. no overnight storage in boats or trucks.)
6. Boat dealers MAY store their product in a permitted wet storage area.

7. Product must be brought to 45 degrees F or less with in 2 hours of landing.
8. Ice used in the operation must be from an approved source.
9. Each container of shellfish shall be identified with an approved shipping tag with the shipper name, address, and certification number. The tags must remain on the containers until the product reaches the ultimate consumer.
10. Boat dealer shall have a Virginia residence and address.
11. Boat dealers shall have available a marine sanitation device during harvesting of shellfish.
12. Records required:
 - a. HACCP Plan;
 - b. HACCP records;
 - c. Sanitation records.